

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend

1. (Amended) A system to propel an air powered boat comprising:

- a. means for propelling the air boat in any one of a forward, reverse and at least one neutral turning direction having an engine powering a propeller in a single rotational direction wherein the means for propelling includes means for rotating the propeller about a transverse horizontal axis from a first position in which the axis of the propeller is disposed horizontally to produce a thrust to move the boat forward through a position in which the propeller produces a neutral torque turning thrust to a third position in which the axis of the propeller is disposed horizontally to produce a thrust to move the boat in reverse; and
- c. means for securing the means for propelling to the air powered boat.

2. (Amended) A [The] system to propel an air powered boat [of claim 1], comprising:

- a. means for propelling the air boat in every one of a forward, reverse and at least one neutral turning direction having an engine powering a propeller in a single rotational direction, wherein the means for propelling includes means for rotating the propeller about a transverse horizontal axis from a first position in which the axis of the propeller is disposed horizontally to produce[s] a thrust to move the boat forward through a [second] position in which the propeller produces a [downward] neutral torque turning thrust to a third position in which the axis of the propeller is disposed horizontally to produce[s] a thrust to move the boat in reverse; and
- c. means for securing the means for propelling to the air powered boat.

3. (Amended) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 2, wherein the direction of thrust from the propeller can be rotated through a 180 degree arc as the propeller is rotated through a 180 degree arc about the horizontal axis to propel the air powered boat in one of a forward direction, a neutral turning direction, and a reverse direction.

4. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 2, wherein the means for rotating the propeller includes a direct drive controllable by a pilot to rotate the propeller about the transverse horizontal axis to one of the first position, second position and third position.

5. (Amended) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 2, wherein the transverse horizontal axis [lies in a plane that] is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the air powered boat.

6. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 1, wherein the propeller is of an aerodynamic design for producing thrust.

7. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 1, wherein the engine powering the propeller is a variable speed engine operable in a single rotational direction.

8. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 2, wherein the means for propelling has a tangential shroud which supports the propeller and rotates about the transverse horizontal axis with the propeller.

9. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 8, wherein the shroud has an internal framework for supporting the propeller.

10. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 1, wherein the means for securing the means for propelling to the air powered boat comprises a frame adapted for use in supporting the engine powering a propeller in an operative position on the air powered boat.

11. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 10, wherein the frame is

mounted on the air powered boat.

12. (Amended) In an environment which includes an air powered boat having a plurality of buoyant members, a system to propel the air powered boat comprising:

- a. means for propelling the air boat in any one of a forward, reverse and at least one neutral turning direction having an engine powering a propeller in a single rotational direction wherein the means for propelling includes means for rotating the propeller about a transverse horizontal axis from a first position in which the axis of the propeller is disposed horizontally to produce a thrust to move the boat forward through a position in which the propeller produces a neutral torque turning thrust to a third position in which the axis of the propeller is disposed horizontally to produce a thrust to move the boat in reverse; and
- b. means for securing the means for propelling to the air powered boat comprising a frame adapted for use in supporting the engine powering a propeller in an operative position on the air powered boat, said frame being mounted on the air powered boat and securing each of the plurality of buoyant members to one another.

13. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 12, wherein the plurality of buoyant members includes at least one primary hull in which a pilot may operate the air powered boat and at least one secondary hull; and wherein the frame comprises a primary member for supporting the means for propelling and at least one secondary member, each of the at least one secondary member extends laterally from the primary member,

said primary member being fastenable to the at least one primary hull,
each at least one secondary member being fastenable to one of the at least
one secondary hull,
whereby, the engine powering a propeller is supported by each of the plurality
of buoyant members.

14. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 12, wherein the plurality
of buoyant members includes a primary hull in which a pilot may operate the air powered boat and
a secondary hull; and wherein the frame comprises a primary member for supporting the means for
propelling and a secondary member that extends laterally from the primary member,

said primary member being fastenable to the primary hull,
said secondary member being fastenable to the secondary hull,
whereby, the engine powering a propeller is supported by each of the plurality
of buoyant members.

15. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 12, wherein the plurality
of buoyant members includes a primary hull in which a pilot may operate the air powered boat and
two secondary hulls; and wherein the frame comprises a primary member for supporting the means
for propelling and two secondary members, each of the two secondary members extends laterally
from opposing sides of the primary member,

said primary member being fastenable to the primary hull,
each of the two secondary members being fastenable to one of the
two secondary hulls,
whereby, the engine powering a propeller is supported by each of the plurality

of buoyant members.

16. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 2, wherein the engine is an internal combustion engine.

17. (Amended) A [The] system to propel an air powered boat [of claim 16] comprising:

- a. means for propelling the air boat in any one of a forward, reverse and at least one neutral turning direction having an engine powering a propeller in a single rotational direction,

said engine is an internal combustion engine,

said means for propelling includes means for rotating the propeller about a transverse horizontal axis from a first position in which the propeller produces a thrust to move the boat forward through a second position in which the propeller produces a downward neutral thrust to a third position in which the propeller produces a thrust to move the boat in reverse;

- b. means for securing the means for propelling to the air powered boat; and

- c. further comprising a fuel system with a fuel reservoir supported on the frame at an elevation above the internal combustion engine so that the fuel can be feed to the engine by gravity.

18. (Amended) A [The] system to propel an air powered boat [of claim 16] comprising:

- a. means for propelling the air boat in any one of a forward, reverse and at least one neutral turning direction having an engine powering a propeller in a single rotational direction,

said engine is an internal combustion engine,

said means for propelling includes means for rotating the propeller about a transverse horizontal axis from a first position in which the propeller produces a thrust to move the boat forward through a second position in which the propeller produces a downward neutral thrust to a third position in which the propeller produces a thrust to move the boat in reverse;

- b. means for securing the means for propelling to the air powered boat; and
- c. further comprising a fuel system with a fuel reservoir supported on the frame at an elevation above the transverse horizontal axis so that the fuel can be feed to the engine by gravity.

19. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 18, wherein the fuel system further comprises a flexible fuel line between the fuel reservoir and the engine.

20. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 19, wherein the means for propelling includes means for rotating the engine with the propeller about the transverse horizontal axis and wherein the flexible fuel line is adapted for use as the engine is rotated about said transverse horizontal axis.

21. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 1, wherein the means for securing further comprises a stationary screen disposed forward the means for propelling for blocking debris from entering the means for propelling when the air powered boat is moving in a forward direction.

22. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 1, wherein means for propelling is continuously operable in a swivel mounting as the propeller is rotatable 180 degrees about a transverse horizontal axis to change directions from one of the forward, reverse and neutral

turning direction to any other of the forward, reverse and neutral turning direction.

23. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 1, wherein the means for propelling includes means for rotating the propeller about a transverse horizontal axis from a first position in which the propeller produces a thrust to move the boat forward to a second position in which the propeller produces a downward neutral thrust which turns the boat to the left to a third position in which the propeller produces a thrust to move the boat in reverse and to a fourth position in which the propeller produces a upward neutral thrust which turns the boat to the right.

24. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 2, wherein the direction of thrust from the propeller can be rotated through a 360 degree arc as the propeller is rotated about the horizontal axis to propel the air powered boat in one of a forward direction, a neutral left turning direction, a reverse direction, and a neutral right turning direction.

25. (Original) The system to propel an air powered boat of claim 2, wherein the means for rotating the propeller includes a direct drive controllable by a pilot to rotate the propeller about the transverse horizontal axis to one of the first position, second position, third position, and fourth position.